

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Independent claim 7 is the sole independent claim under examination.

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview conducted on March 19, 2002. In response to the Examiner's election requirement, Applicants hereby submit an independent genus claim, rewriting claims 1 and 5 into respective species claims. Thus, genus claim 7 is generic to both species of the present application.

The Examiner has required election between species I, containing claims 1-4, and species II, containing claims 5 and 6. Applicants hereby elect the first species of Figure 3 including claims 1-4, where the worm shaft is deflectable toward the worm wheel. It is accordingly respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is generic while species claims 1-4 are also examinable. The Examiner is reminded that, should the independent claim be considered allowable, rejoinder is proper and thus, this application should issue with all claims 1-7 pending.

If the Examiner has any further questions concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Northern Virginia.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) [An] The electric power steering apparatus of claim 7, wherein [, comprising:

an electric motor for steering assistance;

a worm shaft on which a worm is disposed;

a steering shaft on which a worm wheel is disposed and to which a rotary motion of said electric motor is transmitted through said worm shaft; and]

[a] the biasing member [biasing] biases said worm shaft deflectable toward said worm wheel, in a deflective direction of said worm shaft.

5. (Amended) [An] The electric power steering apparatus of claim 7, wherein [, comprising:

an electric motor for steering assistance;

a worm shaft on which a worm is disposed;

a steering shaft on which a worm wheel is disposed and to which a rotary motion of said electric motor is transmitted through said worm shaft; and

a] the biasing member [biasing] biases said worm wheel deflectable toward said worm shaft, in a deflective direction of said worm wheel.

Claim 7 is added.